

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
HELD
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Burns, M.D.
Donald E. Cole
Deirdre O'Brien
Susan Radovich
Terry E. Langley

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Justin D. Neal

BOARD MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED (3)

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
September 25, 2009

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BOARD MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED: Three

Dr. Mary Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all Board members and guests to the meeting. The minutes of the August 28, 2009 meeting were approved with the following change: In the second paragraph, "Ms. Susan Radovich is from Statesboro and serves as Board Chair of a Community Service Board" (change "serves" to "served").

Dr. Burns suggested that the DBH Board meet every other month, instead of monthly. Therefore, the next Board meeting will be in November on a date to be determined. A thirty day notice will be sent to the public advising them of the November date once it is established.

Commissioner's Report:

Dr. Shelp reviewed the CRIPA Settlement Agreement and the Department's relationship with the Department of Justice. The current agreement with the DOJ stems from an investigation that began in 2007 and 2008, with the agreement being signed January 2009. The agreement refers to the current seven hospitals and addresses broad areas of routine changes within the hospitals. In particular, it identifies four critical areas which are addressed separately: Aspiration and choking, Medical Codes, Suicide and Consumer on Consumer Assaults (protection from harm). Specific efforts are being made in each of these areas at all of the seven facilities. Assessments, discharge planning and treatment planning have been added at each hospital to address the four areas of concern. Dr. Shelp stated that the Department has taken a number of steps for improvement in response to the Settlement agreement and also as a part of an on-going strategic plan. Special efforts, such as job fairs, have been done to recruit and hire qualified employees. The Department is also moving forward with strategic partnerships with all four medical schools in Georgia – Mercer, Morehouse, Emory and the Medical College of Georgia. The Department is currently in the process of developing agreements to partner with the medical schools to enhance their training experience and to also help the hospitals.

Dr. Shelp announced that Dr. Karen Bailey-Smith, Director of Forensic Services, has been on-site at the Cook Building at Central State Hospital for two months. She is being supported by two nurse experts and also by Dr. Donald Manning. Dr. Shelp will have an update concerning this at the November Board meeting.

Update on Developmental Disabilities:

Dr. Olivia Garland, Deputy Commissioner of Developmental Disabilities, gave a brief overview and presentation of the direction that the Department of Developmental Disabilities is currently taking. She discussed the total DD waivers (11,055 people) and discussed that this is a smaller number than should be for the size of the State of Georgia. There are currently 6,309 people on the waiting list. She is asking for 1500 waivers in this year's budget, which will help move some of the 3900 people on the waiver services. The Olmstead agreement requires that we transfer at least 150 individuals from the State hospitals to the community each year.

The future priorities for the Department of Developmental Disabilities are:

- a) training and technical assistance for implementation of the waivers;
- b) expanding provider capacity;
- c) completing a cost-based study;
- d) having relationships with sister agencies, especially the Department of Community Health.

Dr. Garland stated that future priorities include:

- a) clinical people in the field who can support the medically fragile;
- b) establish data driven decision making;
- c) implement a Quality Improvement Program.

Two areas that need support and which the funding has been identified are:

- a) DD Special Coordinator for each Region;
- b) Child and Family Services Director.

Following discussion, Dr. Garland was thanked for her presentation.

At this time, Dr. Shelp discussed the current Regions and stated that their functions and geographical areas will be scrutinized and the proposal for changing the Regions will be on the November Board agenda.

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Chair's Report:

Dr. Burns commended Dr. Shelp for his report on the DOJ and noted the extra challenge that this presents to the Department. She also commended Dr. Garland on the excellent job she is doing with the Developmental Disabilities Department and appreciates her enthusiasm and willingness to look at the Department candidly.

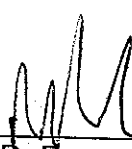
Dr. Burns announced that there are three Board members still to be appointed and, once the Board has all nine members, then the Vice Chair will be voted on. She asked Liz Hurst to forward a contact list of Board members and employees in the DBH Department to each Board member for their information.

At this point, the meeting was opened for public comment. Several people spoke about the positive transition of the Department of Behavioral Health from the Department of Human Resources. There was some discussion about the CRIPA Settlement agreement and a concern about the State's ability to come into compliance with the agreement.

Dr. Shelp stated that the Department has to consider all of the issues that surround this complex situation and how the department is working on giving good care to consumers. He stated that from July 1st until today, the Department is moving very quickly to identify experts and resources to move more deliberately across the hospitals. He is working with the Governor's office and Planning & Budget to anticipate needs, even while the State is in a severe budget crisis; he feels that the Department is moving in the right direction.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities will be in November and the date will be announced at a later date.



Mary D. Burns, M.D.
Chair